

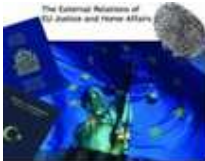


Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
04.06.10

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COM(2010)273 - Proposal for a Regulation (EU) No .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing Article 10 of the United Nations' Firearms Protocol and establishing export authorisation, import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition

The Council and Commission Action Plan implementing the Hague Programme on strengthening freedom, security and justice in the EU listed among its relevant actions a proposal on the conclusion — on behalf of the European Community — of the United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (referred to as the 'UN Firearms Protocol' or 'UNFP'). The successor, the Stockholm Programme for 'an open and secure Europe, serving and protecting citizens' highlights trafficking in arms as one of the illegal activities that continue to challenge the internal security of the EU and reaffirms that the Union should continue to promote ratification of international Conventions (and their Protocols), in particular those developed under the auspices of the United Nations.

Article 10 of the UNFP on 'General requirements for export, import and transit licensing or authorization systems' requires each State Party 'to establish or maintain an effective system of export and import licensing or authorisation, as well as of measures on international transit, for the transfer of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition', thereby improving scrutiny of transfers and allowing better enforcement of laws.

Union action is needed to complete the process of transposition into Union legislation of the provisions of the UNFP. In its Communication of 18 July 2005 on measures to ensure greater security in explosives, detonators, bomb-making equipment and firearms, the Commission made clear the need and intention to implement Article 10 of the UNFP as part of the overall transposition work that would allow the Commission to meet its obligation to make a proposal for conclusion of the UNFP on behalf of the Union, which represents one of the principal aims of the Commission's current policy on firearms.

This legislative proposal is aimed at finalising that work, by transposing the relevant provisions of Article 10 UNFP. It will combat illicit arms trafficking through improved tracing and control of imports and exports of civilian firearms from and to the EU territory. The proposal applies only to firearms, their parts and essential components and ammunition for civilian use and not to firearms that are intended specifically for military purposes.

This proposal only addresses trade in/transfers of firearms to third countries and consequently does not concern intra-Community transfers of firearms, their parts and essential components and ammunition.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0273:FIN:EN:PDF>



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Meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council: Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th June 2010

The following are the main results of the meeting of the ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the 27 Members States:

The Council adopted:

- a **European pact to combat international drug trafficking**
- a set of **conclusions** on:
 - **facilitating entry for citizens** of the member states of the EU **at external borders**;
 - the follow-up to the **European Pact on Immigration and Asylum**;
 - an action plan concerning **unaccompanied minors** from third countries.
- an **EU-US declaration on the fight against terrorism**
- a discussion paper by the EU counter-terrorism coordinator on the implementation of the **EU strategy and action plan to combat terrorism**.

Furthermore the Council reached agreement on a decision authorising the first **enhanced cooperation** in the history of the EU. It concerns **the law applicable to divorce and legal separation** (Rome III). It is now up to the European Parliament to give its consent on the decision to authorise enhanced cooperation.

The Council also discussed the outcome of the recent **EU-Russia justice and home affairs permanent partnership council** and held a general debate on **internal security**.

Under any other business, the Council examined:

- the issue of **visa reciprocity and Canada**;
- a study on **burden-sharing systems**;
- recent developments on the **fight against corruption**;
- the progress made on an **EU-Turkey readmission agreement**;
- the issue of **police cooperation in South-Eastern Europe**;
- the outcome of the meeting of **interior ministers of the G6** in Varese, Italy; and
- the **priorities** in justice and home affairs matters as presented by the upcoming **Belgian presidency**.

A-items (adopted without discussion) by the Council include conclusions on:

- the Commission's **action plan implementing the Stockholm Programme**,
- the **Eurojust Annual Report for 2009**,
- **psychosocial support in the event of emergencies and disasters**, and
- the **European Arrest Warrant**.

In the margin of the Council the **Mixed Committee** (the EU plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) examined the state of play concerning the development of



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the **Schengen Information System II (SIS II)**, including a draft global schedule as presented by the Commission. The committee also discussed the issue of **visa liberalisation for Western Balkan states**.

For further details go to:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114900.pdf

See also:

Council conclusions on the Commission's Action Plan Implementing the Stockholm Programme:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114851.pdf

Council conclusions concerning an updated handbook with recommendations for international police cooperation and measures to prevent and control violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114853.pdf

Council conclusions on facilitating entry for citizens of the European Union at external borders:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114879.pdf

Council conclusions on the follow-up of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114881.pdf

Council conclusions on unaccompanied minors:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114887.pdf

European pact to combat international drug trafficking – disrupting cocaine and heroin routes:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114889.pdf

Council Factsheet on enhanced cooperation on the law applicable to divorce and legal separation:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114917.pdf